



# McClusky Newsletter



*Homeward Bound Edition*



In this edition, we check-in with some of McClusky's divisions to see what they have been up to throughout the deployment. We are on the homestretch, and are speeding towards our return. The Children's Christmas Party is to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at Murphy Cannon Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your continued support, and please send any feedback regarding the newsletter to the Public Affairs Officer at the following email address: [jduggan@mcclusky.navy.mil](mailto:jduggan@mcclusky.navy.mil).

## "Captain's Call!"

*...timely words of wisdom from our Commanding Officer.*

"Might Mac's" journey has taken us from the blue Pacific to the green Atlantic and back leaving a wake that covers 23,123 miles of ocean. During these travels we have kept 8.28 tons of cocaine and 299 migrants from reaching the United States. We have been to places that once were just names and now hold images of time in a familiar place. We have produced 1,080,000 gallons of water, cooked 81,000 meals, shot 11,099 rounds of ammunition, printed on 675,000 sheets of paper, and processed \$700,000 dollars of parts and consumables. Your Sailors' persistence kept McCLUSKY sailing smoothly throughout this deployment. Soon we will be turning the rudder and marking a course for home. The thought of seeing the Coronado Bridge and the faces of family and friends brings out the widest smiles. Please stay safe during the Holidays. Have a Merry Christmas and a Joyful New Year! "Mele Kalikimaka Haoli Makahiki Hou" Aloha! CDR Herman T. K. Awai

## XO Gouge

As we return to our loved ones, we will again face the recurring challenge of Holiday Safety. Despite having spent the last four months on the high seas in the industrial environment of a warship, we have a statistically higher chance of being killed or maimed after we step off the brow. Off-duty and recreational accidents remain the leading cause of death and serious injury among sailors. Vehicular crashes are always at the top of the list. Alcohol-related car and motorcycle accidents are the primary killers, but we must not forget that driving while drowsy or fatigued can have equally deadly consequences. With this in mind, we must ensure that we always buckle up (including all passengers), never get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol, and plan ahead to ensure proper rest for long-distance road trips. In addition to vehicular safety, the Season calls for special attention to the risks involved with holiday decorations/lighting, winter sports, and other cold-weather activities. Think Safety!!



*...a chat from the deckplates, with the Command Master Chief.*

"The Fighting 41" has now returned to the Pacific from the Caribbean via a round trip through the Panama Canal; a Historic and Modern Marvel of Engineering, which has been in use since August 15, 1914. We have patrolled the Caribbean, visited Mayport, Florida where the crew conducted in port ship maintenance and upkeep. Then we made a port o' call to Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Soon we will be setting our course northward and begin our transit homeward. I can tell you that the Sailors of the "Mighty Mac" are looking forward to returning home to all of you, our families and friends. Even though we would have rather have spent Thanksgiving at home with all of you, the Culinary Specialists aboard USS MCCLUSKY prepared an excellent Thanksgiving Dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. It is an honor and privilege to be serving with the Outstanding Sailors aboard the "The Fighting 41". I hope all of you will enjoy reading about what each division has done so far during the deployment. Thank you for your Support. **CMDCM(SW) C. J. Lewis**

## *WELCOME ABOARD*

LT Jorgenson, EM1 Alcausin, IC2 Scroggins, TM2 Banks, EN3 Tibana, ET3 Wiburg, IC3 Vollema, OS3 Ramos, ICFR Lucas, STGSN Zamundio, SN Azami, SN Coats, SN Elliot, SN Filio, SN Foster

## *F a r e w e l l*

LT Reinhart, LT King, EN1 Tippet, HT1 Hunt, IT1 Albrecht, FC2 Isfalt, FC3 Owen, GSMFN Wiemelt, SN Jefferson

## *AWARDS*

### **Navy Commendation Medals:**

LT Reinhart, LT King

### **Navy Achievement Medals:**

EN1 Tippet, HT1 Hunt, IT1 Albrecht, FC2 Isfalt

### **Good Conduct Medals:**

IC2 Scroggins, GSE3 Ignacio, HM3 Margolis, STG3 Francisco, FN Cody

### **Letters of Commendation:**

ET1 Broussard, MA1 Naderdmann, OS1 Pollard, SH1 Bande, EN2 Torres, HT3 Nevins, OS3 Ott, STG3 Francisco

### **Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS):**

BM1 Summers, CS1 Beck, HM1 Darling, HT2 Mertz, PS2 Pastor, BM3 Tanner, ET3 Crowe, ET3 Huerta, FC3 Baker, QM3 Goss, QM3 Moss

## **MCCLUSKY MAKES SECOND SIGNIFICANT DRUG BUST**

By ENS Josh W. Duggan, USS McClusky Public Affairs Officer

AT SEA, ONBOARD USS MCCLUSKY (FFG 41) -- While patrolling in the Eastern Pacific, USS McClusky (FFG 41), with its embarked helicopter and U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment, recently completed a second major drug interdiction. McClusky is deployed as part of a Joint Inter-Agency Task Force conducting Counter Narcotics Terrorism operations.

The operation resulted in the seizure of approximately 5800 pounds of cocaine aboard the Fishing Vessel Jose Antonio and the detention of sixteen suspected drug traffickers. Following the seizure, McClusky was directed to take control of the Jose Antonio and return the vessel and crew to their country of origin.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Michael Barnecut (Union City, CA), McClusky's Assistant Navigator, and eight other McClusky sailors embarked the Jose Antonio to ensure the safe passage of the vessel. Barnecut stated, "It was a challenging 8 days onboard Jose Antonio. We had engineering problems and had to be towed by McClusky for 300 miles of the transit. However, everyone worked as a team to make the journey a success."

Earlier during the deployment, McClusky captured a "go-fast vessel," a high-speed boat specifically designed for smuggling drugs. That seizure amounted to 3.5 tons of cocaine with a street value of nearly \$100 million.

USS McClusky (FFG 41) is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigate homeported out of San Diego, CA, and currently has embarked Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 45 Detachment Three, and a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment.



## **Operations Department Communications**

IS Division has been a key player in the success of Mighty Mac's counter-narcotics deployment. They have allowed McClusky to communicate with not only other ships, but also our loved ones back home. IS division has proven themselves as critical to the everyday mission of McClusky. Leading Chief Petty Officer (LCPO) ITC(SW) Coronado and Leading Petty Officer (LPO) IT1 Brown are supported by IT1(SW) Martinez and IT2(SW) Follosio as watch supervisors, as well as, IT2 Arevalo, IT2(AW) Wathey, IT3 Kuzara, and IT3 Burgess. In the last four months they have maintained McClusky's communications gear, routed thousands of messages, and ensured our circuits were operational.

Welcome aboard to IT2 Russell Wathey from San Bernardino, CA who joined us in Panama, and congratulations on his recent engagement.

We are proud to announce that McClusky has a new and improved webpage. IT3 Burgess, the LAN administrator, spearheaded the project. His website production displayed his technical abilities and creative brilliance. The website is now the finest in the Fleet - Bravo Zulu to IT3 Burgess!!! Our website address is: [www.mcclusky.navy.mil](http://www.mcclusky.navy.mil).

## **Navigation**

The division that makes it all happen! Since leaving Mayport, Navigation Division has been busy ensuring the safe navigation of the ship, into Jamaica and through the Panama Canal. Our southbound canal transit was a huge success. The transit began with poor weather and visibility. The entire event showed that Mighty Mac's crew was well trained and ready to respond to any situation. By the end of the canal transit, some members of Navigation Division had stood eleven continuous hours of watch! It was truly an event that everyone will remember.

We would like to congratulate BM3(SW) Moss and QM3(SW) Goss on earning their ESWS pins! Well Done! In addition we would like to say farewell to our old Navigator, LT King, and welcome our new Navigator, LTJG Barnecut.

## **Combat Information Center (CIC)**

OI division has been busy this deployment. First, congratulations to OS2(SW) Ramos, OS3 Ott, and OS3 Nickum on their advancements. Congratulations also to OS2 (SW) Ramos and his wife, Sharlene, who welcomed their first child in November.

In addition, OS1(SW) Pollard and OS2(SW) Ferelli were selected as Operations Department Senior Sailors of the Quarter, while OS3 Ott was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

The Anti-Submarine Tactical Air Controllers controlled our embarked helicopter for over 300 flight hours. The division did everything from navigating to foreign ports, to analyzing information, to tracking contacts on our radar scopes. OS3 Goodfellow has been busy as one of three search and rescue swimmers on board. As a member of McClusky's VBSS team, CTT2(SW) Polak participated in boarding operations. Other hard-chargers include ENS Rivera, OS1 (SW) Pollard, and OS2 (SW) Brown, who all recently qualified as Combat Information Center Watch Officers. Meanwhile, the CIC Navigation team has been correcting charts and ensuring McClusky's safety of navigation.

Let's not forget about the intelligence side of the division. The CTTs have been a valuable asset and played an instrumental role in McClusky's successful deployment. They put together countless intelligence briefs for the Commanding Officer, gathered information from numerous sources, and analyzed intelligence to assist our counter-narcotics mission.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Division**

Greetings from the Eastern Pacific! 1<sup>st</sup> Division has been busy as usual. We have some new additions to our division and would like to welcome aboard our new 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, ENS Davis, as well as SN Azami, SN Foster, SN Elliot, SN Coats and SN Filio. We also congratulate our Sailors who were advanced to their new paygrades: BM2 Cooper, BM2 Coleman and our newest Petty Officer BM3 Verbeke. We had two Sailors join the ranks of the ESWS community, our Leading Petty Officer BM1(SW) Summers and BM3(SW) Tanner. Bravo Zulu and “well done” to all!

The flight deck crew, which include BM1(SW) Summers, BM2(SW) Newman, BM3 Clark, SN Boone, SN (SW) Rodriguez and SN Davalos, assisted in over 300 safe launches and recoveries of the ship's helicopter, “LONEWOLF 55”. The crew of our Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB), BM2 (SW) Newman, BM3 (SW) Tanner, BM2 Cooper, SN Williamson and BM3 Verbeke, conducted boardings of eight vessels and participated in numerous humanitarian missions.

It won't be long now until our mission is complete and we will be back in our homeport! We look forward to seeing all of you upon our return, and we would like to thank you for your support. See you soon!!!



## **Combat Systems Department Force Protection**

The deployment is near an end, and the excitement of seeing our loved ones is already in the air. Force Protection (FP) Division has been responsible for over fifty individual security plans for our McClusky Sailors who traveled abroad. We also wrote and implemented fourteen inport security plans that kept the ship safe throughout deployment.

FP division welcomed QM2(SW) West to the team. He has been a valuable addition during Law Enforcement missions and has led the charge in conducting security training. Finally, we would like to congratulate GMC(SW) Jaeger and his family on the birth of a healthy baby girl. See you on the pier and happy holidays!

## **Anti-Submarine**

CA division would like to welcome ENS Woodman, STG1 (SW) (IUSS) Morris, TM2 Banks, STGSN Zamundio and TMSN Spears. Our underway time has been busy. STGC(SW) Clark has been standing watch as a Junior Officer of the Deck (JOOD), while STG2(SW) Leising and STG2 (IUSS) Hestor stand Combat Systems Officer of the Watch (CSOOW). STG3 Francisco, who was recently chosen as McClusky's Junior Sailor of the Quarter, has been busy with boarding operations. Congratulations to TM3 Gies for his advancement to 3rd class Petty Officer! Petty Officer Denham has joined a fine tradition as a Wardroom Food Service Attendant. The SONAR Technicians and Torpedomen are looking forward to being home with family and friends.



## Electronics

Seasons greetings to all from the Eastern Pacific! Through the leadership of Leading Chief Petty Officer ETC(SW) Roberts, we had many achievements during this cruise. IC1 Townley and ET2(SW) Seybert completed their Combat Systems Officer of the Watch qualifications. ET2(SW) Pennington was selected as Junior Sailor of the Quarter and was also advanced to ET2 this past advancement cycle. ET1(SW) Broussard, the Leading Petty Officer, was selected as both the McClusky and Commander Destroyer Squadron One Sailor of the Quarter. ET3 Crowe spearheaded the Combined Federal Campaign Fund Drive, achieving 100% participation from the division. We helped McClusky break the previous year's record for money raised.

CE division contributed significantly to McClusky's highly successful deployment, resulting in the seizure of nearly eight tons of narcotics, detention of 29 suspected drug smugglers, and rescue at sea of 299 migrants. Their expertise and dedication were essential in maintaining maximum Combat Systems readiness. As the SITE-TV managers, CE personnel showed over 750 movies, three flight deck movies, six port briefs, numerous General Military Training videos, and countless hours of satellite television programming.

We would like to welcome aboard IC2 (SW) Scroggins, IC3 Vollema, ICFN Lucas, ET3 (SW)Chu, and ET3 Wiberg. Welcome to the division and we are happy to have you aboard.

With the cruise coming to an end and the holiday season rapidly approaching, we would like to thank the families for their support. Happy holidays



## Fire Control and Gunnery

CG is the division you can count on to put the rounds on target, on time, every time! Our fearless leaders, are ENS Norkin, FCC(SW) Paschal, and FC1(SW) Rhodes. Gunner's Mates and Firecontrolmen maintain and operate all of the ship's weapon systems and peripherals. Specifically, GM2(SW) Best is the ship's armorer and small arms instructor. He maintains the machine guns, rifles, and pistols. GM2 Rowlette and GMSN Leblanc work on the ship's main battery, the 76mm gun. FC2(SW) Conrad and FC2 Abutan operate and maintain the fire control system. FC2(SW) Montgomery is a Microminiature Repair technician and the divisional Damage Control Petty Officer. FC3(SW) Smith maintains and operates the Close-In Weapon System. FC3(SW) Baker maintains all the consoles in CIC and the computers that operate them.

ENS Norkin, FC1(SW) Rhodes, FC2(SW) Montgomery, and FC3 (SW) Smith are all members of the ship's Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure (VBSS) team. This deployment the VBSS team intercepted eight tons of cocaine and rescued 299 migrants. The rest of CG division was involved in these events as well, either as Small Craft Action Team members or as part of the ship's Master-at-Arms force.

In their spare time, GM2 Rowlette and GMSN Leblanc formed the ship's band. During port visits in Panama and El Salvador FCC (SW) Paschal, FC1 (SW) Rhodes, FC2 Abutan and FC3(SW) Smith took part in community relation projects repairing a school and delivering clothes, toys and toiletries to needy families.

As deployment comes to an end, we want to say fair winds and following seas to FC1(SW) Johnson. We also want to congratulate FC2 Abutan on his promotion to Second Class Petty Officer and FC3 (SW) Baker for earning his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin.

# Engineering Department

## Main Propulsion

When the going gets tough, MP gets going! We'd like to formally welcome GSE2 Lacap to the division. Congratulations to GSM3 Toews and GSM2 Hansen, who recently passed their advancement exams. Also, two months ago, one of our own was advanced to Chief Petty Officer; congratulations GSMC(SW) Cook. MP Division passed its Mid-Cycle Assessment with flying colors. Well done!

## Repair

Bravo Zulu to HT3 Nevins for being Engineering Department's 3rd Quarter Junior Sailor of the Quarter and for advancing to Petty Officer Third Class. Congratulations to HT2(SW) Mertz who recently qualified as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and is also now a proud father! Also, DCFN Valentine was just awarded his first Good Conduct Medal. Welcome back to DCFA Desrosiers returning from Food Service Assistant (FSA) duty and welcome aboard to DC1(SW) Friddell.

As a division, we've supported the Mighty Mac's mission in various ways. Our ship's Rescue and Assistance (R & A) Team is mainly composed of Repair Division personnel. R&A team leader DC1(SW) Esteller led his team to respond quickly on several occasions to support the rescue of 299 migrants. The majority of us also man the flight deck fire party. As Scene Leader, HT2(SW) Mertz ensures that his team is ready to take immediate actions in case of any flight deck emergencies.

During the deployment, Repair Division spent hundreds of man-hours training shipboard personnel. From Basic and Advanced Damage Control (DC) training to Flying Squad drills, our division never stopped improving its proficiency in fighting DC casualties. With MRC(SW) Bautista as Damage Control Training Team (DCTT) coordinator, our Repair Lockers were well prepared for our successful Main Space Fire Drill during the Mid-Cycle Assessment (MCA).

DC2 Vacanti assumed responsibilities as ER-09 Work Center Supervisor and is off to a great start in supervising 15 Damage Control Petty Officers. DC1(SW) Burchette has done a great job identifying and fixing our material discrepancies. DCFN Valentine, DCFA Desrosiers, MRFN Hoover and HT3 Nevins have put in a tremendous effort completing our preservation projects. Lastly, to our families and friends, thank you for your support.

## Electrical

E-division is led by LT Jouret of the Belgian Navy and EMC (SW) Wilkins. You also have the four hardest charging EMs that ever sailed the seas, EM1(SW) Alcausin, EM1(SW) Elevado, EM1(SW) Alviz, and EM2(SW) Edeh. E-division excelled in all aspects of the mission, from assisting in the towing of a seized narcotics smuggling vessel, to standing watches, repairing equipment, and conducting casualty control drills. The motto we work by is do it right the first time and get back home safely.



## Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries division would like to say hello to all their family and friends. The division has been hard at work making time-critical repairs to broken equipment and providing essential services such as water, heat, and air conditioning. We, in A-Gang, would like to welcome EN3 Tibana, who came to us from Southeast Regional Maintenance Center. EN1(SW) Tippet recently departed but will be close by as he moves on to Southwest Regional Maintenance Center. Also, congratulations to EN3 Baker and EN3 Rodenhuis who were recently frocked to Engineman Third Class.

## **Supply Department**

### **Stores**

A special thanks to the hard chargers of Stores Division. So far during this deployment, we have met numerous logistical challenges. However, due to the skill and determination of our division, we overcame all obstacles.

Great job to SK2 Holman and SK2 Harty for keeping impeccable financial records. SK2(SW) Peterson has maintained four straight years of no carcass charges in Depot Level Repairable (DLR) management - "Outstanding Job"! SK2 Ethington has been superb as the ship's open purchase coordinator and assisting in DLR management. Thank you SK2 Geene, for doing an outstanding job as the divisional Damage Control Petty Officer (DCPO) and Aviation Pack Up Kit (PUK) manager.

Finally, Stores Division will always be ready to provide the "Right Part" to the "Right Place" at the "Right Time." Happy Holidays!

### **Food Service**

Congratulations to CS3 Hotten on his advancement on Third Class Petty Officer. Congratulations to CS3 Gillette for his selection as Departmental Junior Sailor of the Quarter. Well done to CS1(SW) Beck for earning his ESWS pin. We would like to wish CSC (SW/AW) Haug fair winds and following seas on his transfer to Bangor, Washington.

Over the course of the deployment, Food Service division provided over 81,000 meals to the crew.

### **Ship's Service**

In October, we bid a solemn farewell to the old key and ledger rating insignias of Personnelmen (PN) and Disbursing Clerk (DK) as they merged into a new rating, Personnel Specialist (PS).

Congratulations to PS2(SW) Pastor (formerly DK2 Pastor) on earning the much coveted ESWS pin – Good Job! A big thanks to LT Guy, SH1(SW/AW) Sabas, SH1(SW) Bande, SH2(SW) Webber, and SH3 Pitts for keeping the ship's store and vending machines stocked. PC2(SW) Adams handled hundreds of letters and packages from our loved ones.



## **Executive Department**

### **Admin and Medical**

X Division has been hard at work throughout deployment and is looking forward to returning home to our families. The ship's office has been busy bringing new crew members to the ship and sending our old friends to their new assignments. Medical has been hard at work keeping everyone healthy. Congratulations to YN2(SW) Tabladillo for earning his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification.